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THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
BRITISH BIRDS;

OR, A

SELECTION OF THE MOST RARE, BEAUTIFUL, AND INTERESTING

BIRDS

WHICH INHABIT THIS COUNTRY:

THE DESCRIPTIONS FROM THE

SYSTEMA NATURÆ

OF

LINNÆUS:

WITH

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS,

EITHER ORIGINAL, OR COLLECTED FROM THE LATEST
AND MOST ESTEEMED

ENGLISH ORNITHOLOGISTS;

AND EMBELLISHED WITH

FIGURES,

DRAWN, ENGRAVED, AND COLOURED FROM THE ORIGINAL SPECIMENS.

By E. DONOVAN.

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PLATE CXCVII.

ANAS SPONSA.

SUMMER DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed, and obtuse : three fore-toes connected, the hind-one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Crest pendent, double, varied with green, blue, and white.

ANAS SPONSA: crista dependente duplici viridi cœruleo abloque varia. *Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 1. p. 539.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* n. 871. 97.

ANAS SPONSA. *Linn. Syst. I.* p. 207. 43.

ANAS AESTIVA. *Briss. 6.* p. 351. 11. t. 32. f. 2. *Id.* 8vo. 11. p. 455.

Beau Canard huppé. *Buf.* ix. p. 245.—*Pl. Enl.* 980, 981.

AMERICAN WOOD DUCK. *Brown, Jam.* p. 481.

SUMMER DUCK. *Cat. Car. I.* t. 97.

Edw. t. 101.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 6. p. 546. 85.

PLATE CXCVII.

About fifteen years ago, or rather more, our much esteemed friend the Rev. Thomas Rackett, F.L.S. informed us, that the Summer Duck had been then very recently found in a wild state in Dorsetshire. Upon this unquestionable authority, we first introduced the species into our List of British Birds. We have since that period become possessed of a whole family of these interesting Birds which had bred in England.

The Summer Duck is so named by the inhabitants of North America, because it reaches that part of the globe in the spring, and resides there during the whole of the summer; it is also called the Tree Duck from its usually building its nest in the hollow trunks of trees, or between their furcated branches, a peculiarity in the habits of the Duck tribe truly singular, but which is nevertheless not wholly confined to this species. In Mexico, and the islands contiguous, these birds are constant inhabitants throughout the whole year. The flesh is esteemed delicious.

Dr. Latham informs us, the natives of Louisiana ornament their pipes or calumets of peace with the skins of these birds; those of the male birds doubtless, as these are extremely beautiful; the colours about the head and fine pendent crest in particular are uncommonly fine.

The total length of the male bird is about nineteen inches: the female is somewhat smaller.



PLATE CXCVIII.

SCOLOPAX GLOTTIS.

GREEN SHANKS.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, obtuse, longer than the head: nostrils linear: face covered: feet four-toed, hind toe consisting of many joints.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill straight, lower mandible at the base red: body beneath snowy; legs greenish.

SCOLOPAX GLOTTIS: rostro recto basi inferiore rubro, corpore
subtus niveo, pedibus virescentibus. *Linn. Fn.*
Succ. 171.—*Gmel.* 664. 10.

Pluvialis Major. *Aldr. Orn.* 3. p. 535.

Raj. av. p. 106.

Limosa. *Gesn. av.* 519.

Limosa grisea major. *Briss. av.* 5. p. 272. n. 3. t. 24. f. 2.

Glottis. *Gesn. av.* 520.

Greater Plover of Aldrovand. *Will. Orn.* p. 106. t. 55.

PLATE CXCVIII.

Green-legged Horseman. *Albin. av.* 2. t. 69.

Greenshank. *Brit. Zool.* 2. n. 183.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 3. 1. p. 147, n. 18.

A general inhabitant of Asia, America, and Europe : it appears in Britain during the winter season only, as it passes the summer in Sweden, Norway, and other northern countries : it usually appears in small flocks upon the sea-coasts, and sometimes occurs in the marshes near the sea.

It is a slender delicate bird about the size of the Red shank : length fourteen inches,



PLATE CXCIX.
TURDUS MUSICUS.
SONG THRUSH.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straightish : the upper mandible a little bending and notched near the point : nostrils naked, or half covered with a small membrane : mouth ciliated with a few bristles at the corners : tongue jagged.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Quill-feathers ferruginous at the inner base.

TURDUS MUSICUS : remigibus basi interiore ferrugineis. *Linn. Fn.*

Sv. 217.—*Gmel.* 809. 4.—*Brünn. Orn.* n. 236.

—*Kram. el. p.* 361. n. 8.

Turdus Minor, *Briss. av.* 2. p. 203. n. 2.

Tordo Meffano. *Ol. ucc. t.* 25.

Grive. *Buff. Hist. Nat. Ois.* 3. p. 280.

— *Pl. Enl.* n. 406.

Mavis Thrortle, or Song Thrush.—*Raj. av.* p. 64. n. 2.

Will. Orn. p. 188.—*Lath. Syn.* 2, 1. p. 18. n. 2.

The

PLATE CXCIX.

The Throble or Song Thrush is esteemed for the compass, variety, and sweetness of its notes, the chief of our birds of song. It is of a solitary disposition, never associating like the Fieldfare, or Red-wing, in flocks. In northern counties it is seen only during the summer, as it resides throughout the winter season in the more temperate parts of Europe.

This species is inferior in size to the Missel Thrush, being only about nine inches in length, while that of the Missel Thrush is eleven inches : it is also distinguished among other characters by the form of the spots on the breast and belly, those in the Missel Thrush being roundish, or oblong ; in the Throble sagittate, or shaped like the head of an arrow with the point directed upwards : and the whole placed longitudinally. With these exceptions, there is a striking similarity between these two birds.

The Song Thrush breeds early in the year about the beginning of April, and a second brood sometimes in May. The nest is usually composed of earth and moss intermixed ; the eggs of a blueish green, marked with a few black spots.



PLATE CC.

ARDEA STELLARIS.

COMMON BITTERN.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, pointed, long, somewhat compressed, with a furrow from the nostrils towards the tip: nostrils linear: tongue sharp: feet four-toed, cleft; toes connected at the base.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Head smoothish; body above testaceous, with transverse spots beneath paler, with oblong brown spots.

ARDEA STELLARIS: capite læviusculo, supra testacea maculis transversis subtus pallidior, maculis oblongis fuscis.
Fn. Suec. 164.—*Gmel.* 635. 21.—*Scop. Ann.* 1.
p. 125.—*Brünn. Orn. n.* 155.—*Kram. el. p.* 148.
Georg. it. p. 171.

BOTAURUS. *Briff. av. 5. p.* 444. *n.* 24. *t.* 37. *f.* 1.

BUTOR. *Buff. Hist. Nat. des Ois. 7. p.* 411. *t.* 21.—*Pl. Enl. n.* 786.

BITTOUR,

PLATE CC.

BITTOUR, or BITTERN. *Ray. av. p. 160. n. 11.*

Will. Orn. p. 282. t. 50. 52.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 3. 1. p. 56. n. 17.

The common Bittern is an inhabitant of Europe, Asia, and America.

Its usual haunts are among reeds in marshy places : its customary food consists of fishes and reptiles, which it swallows whole.

About sun-set the Bittern rises in the air to a vast height in a spiral direction, making a prodigious and very singular noise ; besides which it emits on some occasions another sound, which has been compared with that of the bellowing of a bull. When attacked by dogs or other animals, it fights with uncommon vigour. Bittern-hawking was in ancient times a very favourite sport.

The Bittern is about three feet in length. The plumage elegantly varied with ferruginous spots, disposed with great regularity in a transverse manner upon a yellowish buff-coloured ground : the female is rather smaller, and darker than the male : the bill brown, beneath greenish : legs and lores green.





PLATE CCI.

ORIOLOUS GALBULA, *fem.*

FEMALE GOLDEN ORIOLE.

PICTÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, convex, very sharp and straight; upper mandible a little longer, slightly notched: tongue bifid, sharp pointed: feet formed for walking.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Pale yellow; lores and limbs black; outer tail feathers on the hind-part yellow.

ORIOLOUS GALBULA: luteus, loribus artubusque nigris, rectricibus exterioribus postice flavis.—*Linn. Syst. Nat.* 1. p. 160, 1.—*Gmel. Syst.* 1. p. 382.

CORACIAS ORIOLOUS. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* N° 95.

GALBULA. *Ray Syn.* p. 68. 5.

Yellow Bird from Bengal. *Alb.* 111. t. 19.

GOLDEN THRUSH. *Edwards t.* 185.

PLATE CCI.

GOLDEN ORIOLE. *Brit. Zool. App. p. 4. t. 4.*

Lath. Syn. 2. p. 449. 43.

In Orn. p. 136. 45.

The Male of the Golden Oriole appeared in one of the earliest Plates of the present Work *: the figure now submitted to the reader is that of the female, which however rare the male bird, is still more so than that sex. The difference in the appearance of the plumage is also so considerable, that we flatter ourselves it will be considered as an acceptable introduction into the present volume.

Since the figure and description of the male bird appeared, we have had occasion to record the additional discovery of a pair of these rare birds in Britain; a circumstance of very unusual occurrence: they were found in Cornwall. This discovery we announced in the year 1808 †.

* Vol. I.

† In the Monthly Magazine for December, 1809, two of the Golden Oriole are mentioned as having been shot in Cornwall. It does not appear very improbable those last mentioned were the birds we had previously recorded.



PLATE CCII.

PODICEPS CRISTATUS, *var.*

CRESTED GREBE.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill strong, slender, sharp pointed: nostrils linear: lore bare of feathers: tongue sub-bifid: body depressed: no tail: legs four-toed, shank compressed, and beset with a double series of serrations behind: toes lobate.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Head rufous: collar black: secondary quill feathers white.

PODICEPS CRISTATUS: capite rufo, collari nigro remigibus secundariis albis. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 780. 1.

COLYMBUS CRISTATUS: capite rufo, collari nigro, remigibus secundariis albis. *Gmel. Linn. Syst.* 589. 7.
Linn. Syst. 1. p. 222. 7.—*Fn. Suec.* N° 151.—
Brun. 135.—*Klein. Av.* p. 149. 1.

PLATE CCII.

In a former Volume of this Work* will be found a figure of the adult bird of this species of Grebe; and which, on due comparison, will appear to differ so very considerably from the young bird, that we are induced to include the latter in the present continuation. This difference is indeed so very material, that it could scarcely be conceived by a casual observer; or by any one not attentive to the progressive alterations which take place in the plumage of certain birds from their early state till they arrive at full maturity.

The description of the Great Grebe in the volume before mentioned contains some notice of these variations manifest in the early growth of that species: it is said there, that “at first they are perfectly downy and striped, especially down the neck, with black; after this, when about half grown, the stripes on the neck are less distinct, being rather mottled than striped, and the under parts, though white, are clouded with dusky; at this period, a fullness round the head is observed: as the bird advances still further towards maturity, the brown and white appear clear and distinct; the head becomes much tufted, and the horns are a little elongated. But we have great reason to believe that the young bird does not obtain the full and perfect crest till the second year at least.”

The length of the bird we have represented is eighteen inches and a quarter.

* Vol. III. Plate LXVIII.

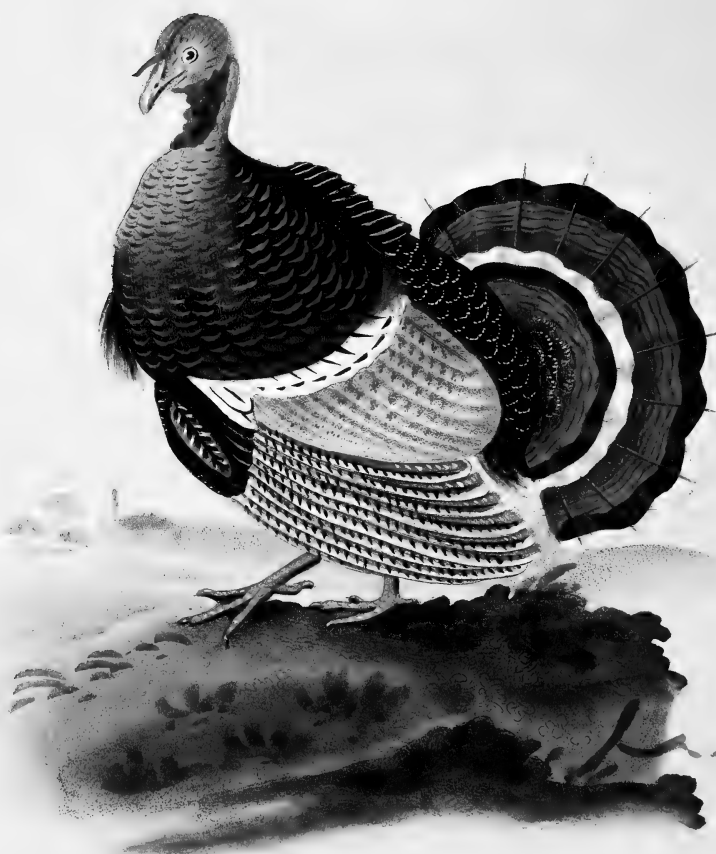


PLATE CCIII.

MELEAGRIS GALLOPAVO.

COMMON TURKEY.

GALLINÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, incurvate : head covered with spongy caruncles : chin with a longitudinal membranaceous caruncle : tail broad, expanfile : legs spurred.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Front and chin carunculated ; breast of the male tufted.

MELEAGRIS GALLOPAVO : capite caruncula, frontali gularique, maris pectore barbato. *Linn. Fn. Succ.* 198.—*Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat.* 732. 99. 1.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 618. 1.

TURKEY : *Ray. Av.* p. 51. n. 3.

Albin. Av. 3. p. 33. t. 35.

Penn. Act. Angl. 72. 1. p. 67.

Dindon. *Buff. Hist. Nat. Ois.* 2. p. 132. t. 3.—*Pl. Enl. n.* 97.

PLATE CCHII.

It has ever been our wish to render this Work as complete as the nature of the subject would permit ; and under that impression we have never felt ourselves restricted to the exclusion of any bird which has possessed either interest or beauty to recommend itself. In the earlier part of the Work some varieties of the Peacock were introduced, and confessedly with satisfaction to our purchasers. The Turkey which we now introduce may not indeed possess an equal claim to our consideration ; it is, nevertheless, an important bird, and much too interesting to be omitted.

The Turkey in a wild state was originally a native of the American woods, from whence it was introduced into Europe, and cultivated with uncommon success.

To a form confessedly uncouth it unites a highly singular and very varied appearance, and the feathers in various parts of the plumage are highly ornamental. Our figure is of the male bird in the ordinary state of plumage.



PLATE CCIV.

LANIUS COLLURIO, *fem.*

RED-BACKED BUTCHER BIRD, *fem.*

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straightish, with a tooth on each mandible near the end, naked at the base: tongue jagged at the end.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail somewhat cuneated: back grey; four middle tail feathers uniform: bill lead colour.

LANIUS COLLURIO: cauda subcuneiformi, dorso griseo, rectricibus 4 intermediis unicoloribus, rostro plumbeo. *Gmel. Syst.* 1. p. 300. *Fn. Sv.* N° 81. t. 2. f. 81. — *Linn. Syst.* 1. p. 136. 12. — *Lath. Gen. Syn.* 1. 167. 25. — *Ind. Orn.* 1. p. 69. 11.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE, LESSER BUTCHER BIRD, FLUSHER. *Albin.* 11. t. 14. — *Will. Orn.* p. 88. 2. 89. 3. *Br. Zool.* 11. n. 131.

PLATE CCIV.

The male of the Red-backed Butcher Bird has been represented in an early part of the present work : the female differs from the male in the general appearance, and the colours and marks upon the plumage as will be perceived from the annexed plate. In these particulars the female bears some resemblance to the young of the male birds ; but is larger than the adult male. The length eight inches.

It is some years since our figure of the male bird and that of the Wood Chat appeared ; these have been oftentimes considered by writers as varieties of the same species. We take this opportunity of stating, that such an opinion is extremely erroneous, and can have arisen only from the want of due comparison. We have been for some years in possession of a very fine specimen of the Wood Chat, and have seen a number of the Red-backed Shrike since our former account was published, the final result of which is an unequivocal conviction in our own mind, that they are decidedly distinct species. And to this opinion, after some unpleasant cavilling on the part of certain cotemporary writers, we have the satisfaction to perceive the naturalists of the present day concede.



PLATE CCV.

TETRAO SCOTICUS, *mas.*

RED GROUS, RED GAME, MOORCOCK, or
GORCOCK, *male.*

GALLINÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Near the eyes a spot which is either naked, or papillous, or rarely covered with feathers.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Transversely streaked with rufous and blackish: six outer tail feathers each side blackish.

TETRAO SCOTICUS: rufo et nigricante transversim striatus, rectricibus 6 utrique exterioribus nigricantibus. *Lath. Ind, Orn.* 641. 15.

BONASA SCOTICA. *Brif.* 1. p. 199. 5. t. 22. f. 1.—*Id.* 8vo. 1. p. 55.—*Buff.* 2. p. 242.

ATTAGEN. *Brif.* 1. p. 209. 9.

Lagopus altera Plinii. *Ray. Syn.* p. 54. A 3 —*Will. Angl.* p. 177. *Albin.* 1. t. 23. 24.

PLATE CCV.

RED GAME, MOORCOCK, GORCOCK. *Raii Syn.* p. 54. *A.* 3.

RED GROUS. *Br. Zool.* 1. N^o 94. *t.* 43.—*Lath. Gen. Syn.* *iv.*
p. 746. 13.—*Id. Suppl.* *p.* 216.

The Red Grouse inhabits the heaths of Wales and Scotland, the latter chiefly, for they have become rather scarce for some years past upon the Cambrian heaths; and are found principally now among the more mountainous parts, as Merionethshire and Caernarvonshire.

The male is rather larger and more robust than the female; its length about fifteen inches and a half. The plumage of the male a rich reddish brown, somewhat rufous, and glossed with purple; and the whole very elegantly striated transversely with black lines disposed in scallops, and nearly equidistant. The female inclines to a yellower hue.



PLATE CCVI.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA, *var.*

DOMESTIC PIGEON, *var.*

SILVER TUMBLER.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, descending towards the tip: nostrils oblong, half covered with a soft tumid membrane.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cinereous: rump white, band on the wings and tip of the tail blackish.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA: cinerea, uropygio albo, alarum fascia, caudae apice nigricante. *Linn. Fn. Suec. n. 207.*—*Scóp. Ann. 1. n. 177.*—*Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat. 769. 2.*—*Lath. Gen. Syn. Vol. 2. part. 2.*

Columba gyatrix, var. Linn. Syst. 1. p. 28, 29.

PLATE CCVI.

A very elegant variety of the Tumbler Pigeon, named, from the delicate whiteness of its plumage, the Silver Tumbler.

These birds have been called from the early times of Ray and Petruver, the Tumbler Pigeon, alluding to the peculiarity of this variety tumbling repeatedly while flying in the air. This is effected by throwing themselves backwards and falling again on their breast and expanded wings.

Buffon enumerates many varieties of the Domestic Pigeon, and so also Linnæus and Latham, all which are distinguished by some peculiarity either of their plumage, habits, or manners of life. The Tumblers are a singular kind, and some of the varieties bear an enormous price: the Almond Tumbler, Dr. Latham says, is so highly valued, that the sum of eighty guineas has been given for a single bird.



PLATE CCVII.

LANIUS EXCUBITOR, *fem.*

GREAT SHRIKE, *fem.*

ACCIPITRES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straightish, with a tooth on each mandible near the tip, the base naked: tongue jagged at the end.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail wedge-form, sides white: back hoary, wings black, with a white spot.

LANIUS EXCUBITOR: cauda cuneiformi, lateribus alba, dorso cano, alis nigris macula alba. *Linn. Syst.* 1. p. 135. 11.—*Fn. Suec.* N° 80.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 67. 6.

PLATE CCVII.

The length of this bird is ten inches, the female rather larger and more robust than the male.

The male bird is figured in Plate LXXXVII. of this Work ; the female differs from the male chiefly in the colour and markings on the breast, that part in the male being entirely white, in the female of a warm dusky tint with numerous transverse semicircular pale brown lines or scallops disposed in a pretty regular manner over the whole of the throat, breast, sides, and belly.

It is some years since we described the male of this species : we then mentioned it as a rare bird, nor has later information lessened the accuracy of this remark : within the space of many years not more than three or four specimens, and those all males, are recorded to have appeared in England. The female is far more rare than the male.

As this bird has appeared on the eastern coasts of Britain in the winter, it is conjectured they have straggled hither in their migrations from the north (where they occur in summer) to the more southern regions, where they pass the winter.



PLATE CCVIII.

SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA, *var.*

WOODCOCK, *Pied-white.*

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, obtuse, longer than the head: nostrils linear: face covered: feet four-toed, hind-toe consisting of many joints.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill straight, reddish at the base: legs cinereous: thighs covered: head with a black band each side.

SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA: rostro recto basi rufescente pedibus cinereis
femoribus tectis, fascia capitis nigra. *Gmel.*
Linn. Syst. Nat. 660.—*Fn. Suec.* 170.

Numenius rostri apice lævi, capite linea utrinque nigra, rectricibus
nigris apice albis.—*Fn. Suec.* 1. n. 141.

Gallina rustica. *Gesn. av.* 477.

Scolopax. *Bell. av.* 272. *Briss. av.* 5. p. 292. n. 1.

Bécasse. *Buff. Hist. Nat.* 7. p. 462. t. 25.

WOODCOCK,

PLATE CCVIII.

WOODCOCK. *Raj.* av.p. 104. n. 1.

Will. Orn. p. 289. t. 53.

Albin. av. 1. t. 70.

Lath. Gen. Syn. III. 1. p. 129. n. 1.

The Woodcock in its ordinary state of plumage is a bird familiar to every one. The variety we have selected for representation is very far from common: there are two or three other known varieties, in one of which an uniform cream or pale buff colour pervades the whole plumage; and another is wholly white. Our present variety is of the pied kind partly buff, and partly pure white; the buff marked with fuscous.

These varieties are about the size of the Woodcock in its usual state of plumage, the length being fifteen inches.

The Woodcock comes into England during the winter season, appearing first about October, in November, and December or January. Never arriving in flights, but straggling individuals, or some few in pairs, and chiefly in the evening or very hazy weather. They are observed to penetrate inland as soon as they arrive.

These birds inhabit northern countries, as Sweden, Russia, as far as Kamtschatka; breeding in the northern regions during summer, and like many other birds of the migratory kind who pass the summer towards the polar climes, retire southward as the winter becomes severe. In their migrations from the north, they visit the more southern parts of Europe, and proceed as far as the temperate parts of Africa and Asia.

That

PLATE CCVIII.

That the Woodcock breeds in England has been authenticated upon the best authority in many instances : we have ourselves both eggs and young produced in England. These are, however, accidental circumstances, for it is clearly ascertained the Woodcock breeds more northward than the British isles. In warm countries inhabiting the plains only in winter, and retiring to the higher hills during summer.

The flesh of the Woodcock is delicious, and in much request for the table of the epicure ; nor need it be added, that their entrails are never drawn : the prevailing opinion is, that this is unnecessary as they live by “ suction ;” they subsist entirely on insects and the nutritious juices they extract from the various snails, worms, and other similar food ; and the trail itself, as it is usually termed, is served up at table with the bird.

The nest, one of which is in our possession, consists merely of a few withered leaves, and fibres laid loosely upon the bare turf or ground ; usually some spot of earth selected close to the stump of an old tree. The eggs four or five in number, the size of a pigeon’s egg, of a greyish colour, with dusky blotches.





PLATE CCIX.

CORVUS FRUGILEGUS

ROOK.

PICÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, sharp-edged : nostrils covered with fetaceous recumbent feathers : tongue cartilaginous, bifid : feet formed for walking.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Black, front somewhat cinereous : tail roundish.

CORVUS FRUGILEGUS : ater, fronte cinerascence, cauda subrotundata. *Linn. Syst. I. p. 156. 4.*—*Fn. Suec. N° 85.*—*Gmel. Syst. Nat. I. p. 366.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn. 152. 5.*

Cornix nigra frugilega. *Raii Syn. p. 83. A. 3.*—*Will. p. 84. t. 18.*—*Frisch. t. 64.*

Cornix frugilega. *Briff. 11. p. 16. 3.*—*Id. I. p. 158.*—*Klein av. p. 59. 3.*

Le Freux, ou la Frayonne. *Buff. 111. p. 55. Pl. Enl. 484.*

PLATE CCIX.

ROOK. *Albin.* 11. t. 22.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 123.—*Lath. Gen. Syn. I.* p. 372. 4.—*Id. Sup.* p. 76.

The Rook and Crow bear such a near resemblance to each other, that many superficial observers have been inclined to consider them as the same bird. Naturalists are however assured, that notwithstanding the two species assimilate so closely in general appearance, they are specifically different.

The Rook is a trifle larger than the Crow, measuring about twenty-one inches in length. But a better distinction prevails in the appearance of the space round the base of the bill and the nostrils, which appear bare of feathers; while the former part in the Crow is covered with feathers, and the nostrils with bristly hairs.

In their manners of life, the difference between the Crow and Rook is very material. The Crow feeds on carrion, which the Rook rejects: the latter subsisting wholly on seeds, worms, and insects.

The Rook is the known attendant upon the ploughman's labour, as upon the sowers, following at a little distance behind in flocks to pick up the worms turned up by the ploughshare, or the seeds cast in the furrows. They are nevertheless, upon the whole, of infinite benefit to the husbandman, as they destroy myriads of those insect larvæ, which harbour in the earth, and gnaw the roots of corn, and other farinaceous plants.

Among

PLATE CCIX.

Among the more injurious kinds of larvæ, which harbour in such situations, we may mention those of the beetle kind, particularly the chafers, and most especially, as being more numerous and hurtful, the larvæ of the *Melolontha vulgaris* : these are in particular their favourite food.

In England the Rook remains throughout the whole year. In the more southern parts of Europe they are migratory. They associate together in immense flocks, and usually build upon the tops of high trees : their breeding places are denominated *rookeries* ; there they congregate, and sit chattering, the males in turn relieving the females in feeding and guarding their young. They begin to build in March. After their breeding season they forsake the rookeries, and roost elsewhere, but return to the rookeries again in August, and after a while repair their nests preparatory to the winter season.

A rook-pie is a favourite rustic dish : it is only the young Rooks that are employed for this purpose, and these are better stripped of their skins previously to being put into the pie.

The Rook is a general inhabitant of Europe, and the western parts of Siberia.

The plumage of the Rook appears particularly splendid in the sunshine ; especially the head and neck, and also the upper part of the breast and wings, which, in a strong light, are finely glossed with blue and rich purple.



PLATE CCX.

PARVO CRISTATUS, *fem. var.*

WHITE CRESTED PEA-HEN.

GALLINÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, robust : head covered with revolute feathers : nostrils large : feathers of the rump long : broad, expanfile, and covered with ocellar spots.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Head with a compressed crest ; spurs solitary. Female entirely white.

PAVO CRISTATUS γ : capite crista compressa calcaribus solitariis.

Linn. Syst. Nat. I. p. 267. I.—Fn. Suec.

Nº 197.—Gmel. Syst. Nat. I. p. 729.—Lath.

Ind. Orn. 616. I.

PAVO ALBUS. *Bris. 1. p. 288.—Id. 8vo. I. p. 81.—Frisch. t. 120.*

—Raii Syn. p. 51. A. 2.—Borowjsk. Nat. 11.

p. 167.—Ger. Orn. 11. p. 74 t. 218.

PLATE CCX.

LE PAON BLANC. *Buff.* 11. p. 323.

WHITE PEACOCK. *Lath. Gen. Syn.* IV. p. 672.

About the same size as the female of the coloured Pea-hen : our figure is that of the female White Pea-hen, recorded by Dr. Latham as appertaining to the Leverian Museum.

This bird is entirely white, except the bill and legs, which are yellowish.



PLATE CCXI.

TETRAO TETRIX, *fem.*

BLACK GAME, *female.*

GALLINÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Near the eyes a spot which is either naked, or papillous, or rarely covered with feathers.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Violet black ; tail forked : secondary quill-feathers white towards the base : *male*. Red, varied with cinereous, and black transverse strizæ : *female*.

TETRAO TETRIX : nigro-violacea, cauda bifurca, remigibus secundariis versus basin albis. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 635.

TETRAO TETRIX : cauda bifurcata, remigibus secundariis basin versus albis. *Linn. Fn. Succ.* 202.—*Scop. Ann. I. n.* 169.—*Brün. Orn. n.* 196.]

Tetrao f Urogallus minor. *Gesh. av.* 494.

PLATE CCXI.

Petit Tétrás, ou Coq de bruyere à queue fourchue. *Buff. Hist. Nat. des Ois.* 2. p. 210. t. 6.—*Pl. Enl.* n. 172. 173.

BLACK COCK, BLACK GAME, or BLACK GROUS. *Ray. av.* p. 53. n. 2.—*Will. Orn.* p. 173. t. 31.—*Albin. av.* I. t. 22.—*Lath. Syn.* 11. 2. p. 733. n. 3.

No two species of the same genus can differ more considerably from each other than the male and female of the Black Grouse. The male is of a deep violet black; the female a warm brown, varied with cinereous and white, and marked throughout with black transverse lines.

The female is smaller than the male, the length of the latter being twenty-one inches, that of the female eighteen inches.

The Black Grouse inhabits northern countries, and becomes gradually scarce towards the south. They thrive well in the climate of the north part of Britain, but are so much an object of request with the sportsman, that they can never become abundant except in extensive domains where the brood can be protected.



PLATE CCXII.

ANAS BICOLOR.

MOSCHOVY DUCK, *var?*

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : the tongue fringed, obtuse : three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Brown : head and nape greenish black : neck, breast, and quill-feathers white : legs fulvous.

ANAS BICOLOR : fusca, capite nuchaque nigro virescente : collo pectore alarumque pennis albis ; pedibus fulvis.

ANAS MOSCHATA *var.?*

Length twenty-five inches. Resembles some varieties of the Moschovy Duck, except in wanting the characteristic mark of the naked papillous skin round the eyes.





PLATE CCXIII.

SCOLOPAX LAPPONICA, *fem.*

RED GODWIT, *female.*

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, obtuse, longer than the head: nostrils linear: face covered: feet four-toed, hind-toe consisting of many joints.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill yellowish, legs black: body beneath rufous-ferruginous.

SCOLOPAX LAPPONICA: rostro flavescente, pedibus nigris, subtus tota rufo ferruginea. *Linn. Syst. I. p. 246. 15.*
—*Fn. Suec. n. 174.*—*Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat. I. p. 667.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn. 718.*

LIMOSA RUFA. *Briss. v. p. 281. 5. t. 25. f. I.*—*Id. 8vo. 11. p. 281.*

La Barge Rouffe. *Buff. VII. p. 504. Pl. Enl. 900.*

RED GODWIT. *Edw. t. 138.*—*Br. Zool. 11. N° 181. t. 67.*—*Lath. Gen. Syn. v. p. 142. 13.*

The

PLATE CCXIII.

The extraordinary rarity of the Red Godwit may entirely justify the introduction of both sexes of this very elegant and curious species in the present work.

It is recorded among the British species of the Snipe tribe, upon the authority of only a few instances in which it has been known to visit England. One shot many years since, near Hull, is mentioned by Pennant; in the collection of birds, formed more than thirty years ago by Mr. Tunstall, was a specimen shot in Dorsetshire; in the Museum of the great rival of Mr. Tunstall, Sir Ashton Lever, one or two varieties again occurred; and since the dissolution of that Museum we have not seen it in any other collection.

The pair we have delineated were from the celebrated cabinet of the late Mr. Green, of Westminster, whose collection was so rich as to contain British specimens of both sexes preserved by himself, and which are now in our Museum.

Mr. Green dissected both these birds, and was enabled to determine the sex of each. According to his observations, the bird he ascertained to be the female has the back and wing feathers uniformly cinereous; while in the male bird many of those feathers are marked at the edges with rufous, some pretty deeply in, and the disk of the feathers darker. This indeed seems to be the chief distinction in the general appearance of the two sexes.

The length of this species is stated to be about eighteen inches, our specimens do not exceed seventeen inches. In some birds the abdomen is said to be red like the neck and breast; in both our specimens the lower part of the belly is white.

This

PLATE CCXIII.

This species is an inhabitant of America, where it breeds in the fens, retiring southward in winter. It is also found on the European continent, but very rarely except in the southern parts, and in the more temperate countries of Asia. They occur about the Caspian sea in spring ; yet never appear so far to the northward as Siberia.

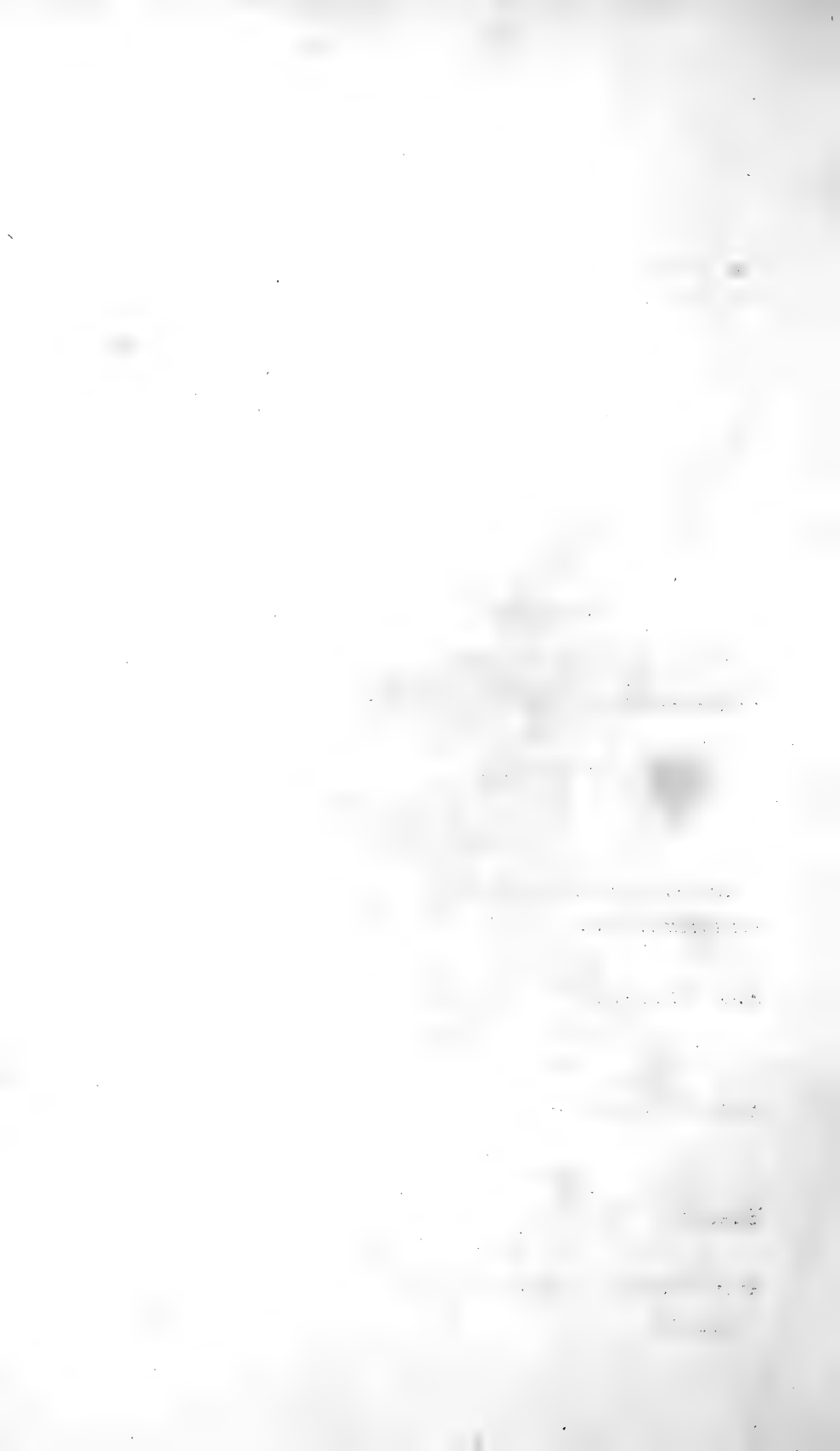






PLATE CCXIV.

ANAS ERYTHROPUS.

BERNACLE GOOSE.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed, obtuse : three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cinereous, above undulated black and white ; neck black : face and abdomen white.

ANAS ERYTHROPUS : cinerea supra nigro alboque undulata, collo nigro, fascie abdomineque albis. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 843. 31.

ANAS ERYTHROPUS. *Faun. Suec.* N^o 116. (*maf.*) *Frifch. t.* 189. *Linn. Syst. I.* p. 197. 11.—*Gmel. Syst. I.* p. 512.

BERNICLA. *Briff. vi.* p. 300. 14.—*Id.* 8vo. 11. p. 411.—*Raii Syn.* p. 137. *A.* 5.—*Will. Orn.* p. 274.

Anas Helfingen. *Olaff. Ift.* 11. t. 33.

PLATE CCXIV.

Anser Brenta. *Klein Av.* p. 130. 8.—*Id.* p. 170. 12.

La Bernache. *Buff.* ix. p. 93. f. 5.—*Pl. Enl.* 855.

Canada Goose. *Albin. I.* t. 92.

BERNACLE, or CLAKIS. *Br. Zool.* 11. N° 269.

Will. Angl. p. 359.

Phil. Transf. 11. p. 853.

Gerard Herb. p. 1587.

Lath. Gen. Syn. vi. p. 466. 26.

The length of our bird is twenty-six inches ; the bill short, black, with a pale or flesh-coloured spot on each side : head white, with a black spot between the base of the bill and the eye : hind head and neck black : band on the shoulders white : belly throughout pure white : back cinereous, the ends of the feathers black, with the tip white, forming a kind of black and white undulation : wings grey, the feathers, except the quill feathers, black towards the end, and terminating in a white tip : back and rump feathers black ; the sides with the tail coverts white : the tail black. The wings beneath are of a pale cinereous colour, as in the common Heron.

The confusion that prevails in the synonyms of the Bernacle Goose, Brent Goose, and White-fronted Goose, demands a very close attention.—The result of this confusion is, that we find a Bernacle Goose which is not a Bernacle Goose, but the Linnæan *Erythropus* : the Brent Goose, which is not the Bernacle, confounded under the trivial name of *Bernicla* ; and some of the synonyms of the true Bernacle, applied to the White-fronted Goose, *Anas Albifrons*.

PLATE CCXIV.

It will tend materially to dispel this seeming confusion by bearing in mind, that the species *Erythropus* of Linnæus is the true Bernacle Goose, but which is better characterised by the specific definition of Dr. Latham, as above quoted, than by the Linnæan character, "*cinerea fronte alba.*" *Faun. Suec.* At the same time recollecting, that notwithstanding the similarity of names, *Anas Bernicla* of Linnæus is the Brent and not the Bernacle Goose.

This appears to be the Tree Goose of Gerard's Herbal, in which the figure of the bird is rudely represented, and also the shell (*lepas antiferæ*) in which it is affirmed with due gravity, that the birds are produced and hatched; and after a certain period dropping out of the shell, appear young Bernacle geese! In complete confirmation of this marvellous tale, we are assured, that the tails of the birds yet immatured, may be seen sticking out of the shell; alluding to the singular feathered tentacula of the animal which inhabits the shell*. We should observe after this, that it is not very unlikely the Bernacle and Brent Goose might have been confounded; or the honour of this Neptunian origin be ascribed to both. Gesner's *Anser Arboreus*, which he calls also *Branta f. Bernicla*, seems indeed to be the Brent Goose, called by Linnæus, as before stated, *Bernicla*.

Anas Erythropus breeds in the northern regions of Europe, being found in Russia, Sweden, Norway, and Iceland, and it is believed

* A figure of this remarkable shell may be seen in our work of British Shells, Plate VII.

PLATE CCXIV.

in North America, though not commonly. During the winter season they are not uncommon in the northern parts of Britain, but become more rare towards the southward. In severe winters it comes with other wild fowl to the London markets.

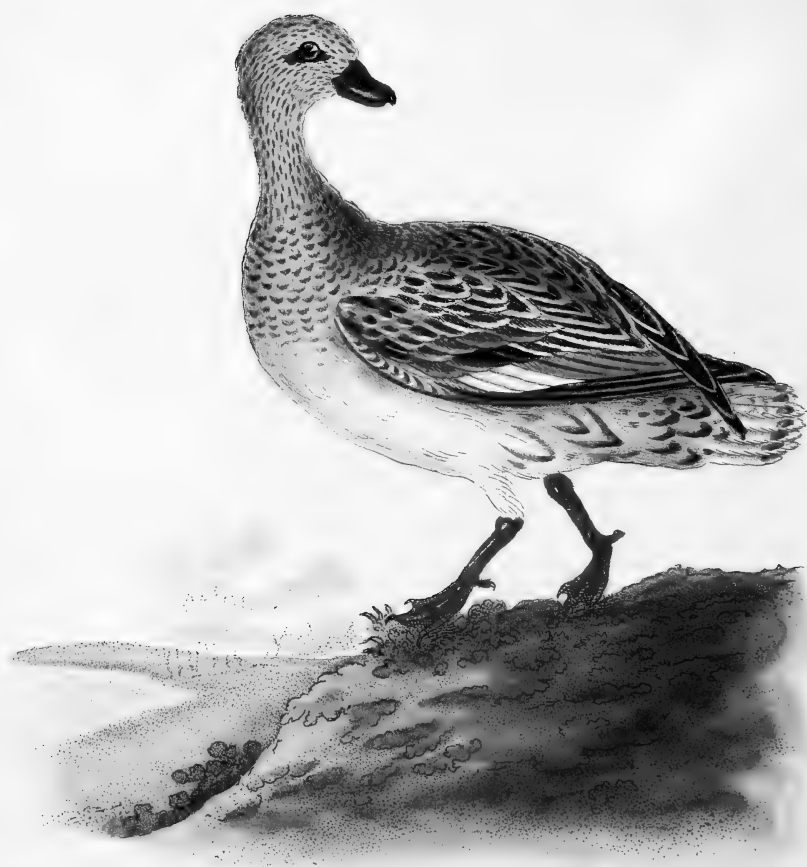


PLATE CCXV.

ANAS STREPERA, *fem.*

GADWALL, *female.*

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: tongue fringed, obtuse: three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Wing-spot rufous, black and white.

ANAS STREPERA: speculo alarum rufo nigro albo. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 21.—*Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat.* 520. 20.—*Brün Orn. n.* 91.—*Müll. Zool. Dan.* 118.—*Georgi it. p.* 166.

ANAS STREPERA. *Gesn. Av.* 121.—*Aldr. Orn.* 3. p. 234.—*Brif. Av.* 6. p. 338. n. 8. t. 33. f. I.

ANAS SUBULATA, *fem.* *S. G. Gmelin it. I. t. I.*

ANAS CINEREA, *maf.* *Gmel. 2.* 17.

Anas

PLATE CCXV.

Anas Platyrhynchos, rostro nigro pleno. *Aldr. Orn.* 3. p. 230.

t. 233.—*Raj. Av.* p. 145. n. 2.

Chipeau. *Buff. Hist. Ois.* 9. p. 187. t. 12.—*Pl. Enl.* n. 958.

GADWALL, or GRAY. *Raj. Av. I.* p. 145. A. 2.

Will. Orn. p. 374. t. 72.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 111. 2. p. 515. n. 61.

The male Gadwall will be found represented in Plate CCXXV. of the present work: the female is the subject of the annexed Plate: the length is twenty-one inches.



PLATE CCXVI.

TETRAO SCOTICUS, *fem.*

RED GROUS, RED GAME, MOORCOCK, *or*
GORCOCK, *female*

GALLINÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Near the eyes a spot, which is either naked, or papillous, or rarely covered with feathers.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Transversely streaked with rufous and blackish: six outer tail feathers each side blackish.

TETRAO SCOTICUS: rufo et nigricante transversim striatus rectricibus 6 utrinque exterioribus nigricantibus. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 641. 15. *fem.*

PLATE CCXVI.

The male of the Red Grouse is delineated in Plate CCV. The female is a trifle smaller than the male bird: the colour more inclining to testaceous than dark red; the black transverse lines, or scallops larger and placed more remotely; and the whole of the neck, breast, and back elegantly studded with small whitish spots.



PLATE CCXVII.

TURDUS MERULA.

BLACKBIRD.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straightish: the upper mandible a little bending and notched near the point: nostrils naked, or half covered with a small membrane: mouth ciliated with a few bristles at the corners: tongue jagged.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Black, bill and eye-lids yellow.

TURDUS MERULA: ater, rostro palpebrisque fulvis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 220.—*Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat.* 831. 22.—*Müll. Zool. n.* 29. 241.

MERULA. *Bell. Av.* 30. b.—*Gesn. Av.* 603.—*Aldr. Orn.* 2. p. 602. t. 604. 605.—*Briss. Av.* 2. p. 227. t. 10.

Merle. *Olin. ucc.* p. 29.

Merle. *Buff. Hist. Nat. des Ois.* 3. p. 330. t. 20.—*Pl. Enl. n.* 555.

PLATE CCXVII.

Schwarze Amsel. *Frisch. Av. t. 29.*—*Günth. Nests. U. Eyer. t. 39.*
BLACKBIRD. *Ray Syn. p. 65. I.*—*Will. Orn. p. 190.*—*Albin. I.*
pl. 37.—*Br. Zool. I. N° 109. pl. 47.*—*Lath.*
Gen. Syn. v. 2. p. I. p. 43.

The length of this bird is ten inches: the bill, inside of the mouth, and eye-lids in the male bird a fine yellow: plumage black, with the legs black brown. The female brown, inclining on the breast and belly to rufous; the bill black.

The Blackbird is an inhabitant of Europe and Asia. Builds in thickets near inhabited places. Its nest is composed of moss, clay, hay, and dried twigs: the eggs four or five in number, of a blueish green colour, with dark or dusky spots.

Often kept in cages on account of the sweetness of its note: when tamed, it may be taught to whistle tunes, or imitate the human voice.





PLATE CCXVIII.

ANAS ADUNCA.

HOOK-BILLED DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed, obtuse : three fore-toes connected ; the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Middle tail feathers recurvate : bill incurvate.

ANAS ADUNCA : vericolor, rectricibus intermediis (maris) recurvatis, rostro incurvato. *Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat.* 538. 41.

Anas rostro incurvo. *Briff. Orn.* 6. p. 311. n. 2.

ANAS BOSCHAS ♂ : rectricibus intermediis (maris) recurvatis, rostro incurvato. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 851.

HOOK-BILLED DUCK. *Albin.* 11. t. 96, 97.—*Id.* 111. t. 100.—*Will. Orn. (Angl.)* p. 381. t. 75.—*Lath. Gen. Syn.* vi. p. 495. D.

PLATE CCXVIII.

This bears a general resemblance to the Wild Duck, *Anas Boschas*; and is considered as a variety of that species by Dr. Latham. Linnæus describes it as a distinct species under the name *Adunca*; and it cannot but be interesting to ascertain the bird Linnæus describes as a species, whether it be really only a variety or not. We shall therefore offer no apology for its introduction in this place.

The figure of the Hook-billed Duck in the annexed plate is taken from a very fine specimen in our Museum. The length is twenty-five inches: the form more slender than the Wild Duck in general: the neck white; the legs thicker, the shanks rising in a projection at the commencement above the foot, and again at the knee, and the bill incurvated in a most singular manner.

The singular incurvation of the bill might easily suggest an idea that it could be no other than an accidental deformity; but this cannot be the fact, since the same character prevails unerringly throughout the whole race.





PLATE CCXIX.

SCOLOPAX LAPPONICA, *mas.*

RED GODWIT, *male.*

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill roundish, obtuse, longer than the head: nostrils linear: face covered: feet four-toed, hind-toe consisting of many joints.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill yellowish, legs black; body beneath rufous-ferruginous.

SCOLOPAX LAPPONICA: rostro flavescente, pedibus nigris, subtus tota rufo-ferruginea. *Linn. Syst. I. p. 246. 15.—Fn. Suec. n. 174.—Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat. I. p. 667.—Lath. Ind. Orn. 718.*

LIMOSA RUFA: *Briff. v. p. 281. 5. t. 25. f. I.—Id. 8vo. 11. p. 281.*

La Barge rousse. *Buff. vii. p. 504.—Pl. Enl. 900.*

RED GODWIT. *Edw. t. 138.—Br. Zool. 11. N° 181. t. 67.—Lath. Gen. Syn. v. p. 142. 13.*

PLATE CCXIX.

This figure represents the male bird, the length of which is seven-teen inches.

The female is delineated in Plate CCXIII.



PLATE CCXX.

MELEAGRIS GALLOPAVO, *var. ε.*

WHITE TURKEY.

GALLINÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, incurvate : head covered with spongy caruncles : chin with a longitudinal membranaceous caruncle : tail broad, expansive : legs spurred.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Front and chin carunculated ; breast of the male tufted. *Var. ε.*
Gallopavo totus albus.

MELEAGRIS GALLOPAVO : capite caruncula, frontali gularique,
maris pectore barbato. *Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat.*
732. 99. 1.

Var. ε. Gallopavo totus albus. Gmel. 732. 99. 1.

Turkey

PLATE CCXX.

Turkey with the plumage entirely white ; longitudinal carunculated membrane of the throat red ; bill and legs yellowish. Length three feet six inches.

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Plate CCX, Line 2.

For PARVO CRISTATUS, *read* PAVO CRISTATUS.



